



PETOSKEY REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
*Leading Businesses, Leading Communities*



November 29, 2017

The Honorable Lee Chatfield, Chair  
House Competitiveness Committee  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Chatfield,

As representatives of the business community in Northern Michigan, we write to share our support of House Bill 5134, a bill that would create the Northern Michigan Regional Sports & Tourism Fund for the purposes of supporting a sports commission to serve sports and recreational assets in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

The legislation would reinvest existing surplus revenue through the State Convention Facilities Act to the Northern Michigan Regional Tourism and Sports Fund. This reinvestment would be used as a vehicle for economic investment in northern Michigan through the development of world class sports and recreation facilities to attract championship caliber events to northern Michigan. Importantly, this legislation would not create any tax increases and will still allow for the early retirement of the Cobo Center bond debt.

This legislation would allow opportunities that are already in the works to come to light – such as attracting a world cup ski jumping event and Olympic training facility at Copper Peak in Ironwood, retaining the Detroit Red Wings training camp and NHL prospect tournament at Centre ICE in Grand Traverse County, and attracting a championship ice climbing event at Northern Michigan University. The sports commission and fund would also enable other projects to received support and investment that would attract competitive events such as mountain biking and ski trails, marathons and triathlons, sailing and fishing tournaments, another other youth, collegiate and professional events that attract world class performers, spectators and TV audiences.

The legislature and state leaders have prioritized Detroit and Grand Rapids for some time, and often for good reason. Now is an opportunity for the same passion and focus on northern Michigan. Again, we ask for your support for the Northern Michigan Regional Tourism and Sports Fund legislation.

Sincerely,

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**Representative Lee Chatfield**  
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